The Park Avenue Synagogue

Bulletin

MARCH 11th, 1948 ADAR I 30, 5708

Rabbi Chas. Schulman speaks Friday, March 12

Topic: "On Being A Jew Today"

Rabbi Charles Schulman of the Riverdale Temple, Riverdale, New York, formerly Rabbi of Glencoe Congregation of Illinois, one of America's foremost religious leaders, will occupy the pulpit of the Park Avenue Synagogue on Friday evening, March 12th. The topic of his sermon will be "On Being a Jew Today."

Rabbi Schulman has a distinguished record as a Navy Chaplain. He is a graduate of Hebrew Union College and the author of "Problems of Jews in the Contemporary World" and "Europe's Conscience In Decline". In addition he is Vice President of the National Association of Jewish Chaplains as well as an Executive member of Central Conference of American Rabbis.

SYMPOSIUM FEATURED BY PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Parents' Association of the Park Avenue Synagogue Religious School in conjunction with its next open meeting has sent the following letter to the parents of those registered in the School. Because of its informative nature and its importance, the BULLETIN *is reprinting this letter.*

"Dear Parents and Teachers—

"You are cordially invited to attend the next Open Meeting of the Parents' Association of the Park Avenue Synagogue Religious School, on WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 17th, 1948 at 8:15 P.M. in the Vestry.

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Congregation Invited To Purim Party — Sisterhood Plans Gala Event

On Wednesday Evening, March 24th, which marks the beginning of *Purim*, the Synagogue will celebrate the holiday with a special service. As has been the custom in the past, various members of the Congregation will be called to the pulpit to read the *Megillah.*

Directly following the conclusion of the Service in the auditorium, festivities will commence in the Vestry. The Sisterhood has again undertaken to sponsor a Gala *Purim* Party as it has in the past. Mrs. Bernard Prensky, Chairman of the Party Committee, has planned what promises to be a most enjoyable affair. A program of entertainment has been arranged following which a collation will be served.

The President of the Sisterhood, Mrs. Harold Levin, has asked that all those who attend the *Purim* Party make an effort to bring contributions of non-perishable food or clothing for the S.O.S. Collection. The needs of the Jews in Europe are still most urgent. It is only fitting that they be remembered on such a festive occasion.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sabbath Eve . . . . . Friday, March 12th, 8:30 p.m.
Rabbi Charles Schulman will preach on
"On Being A Jew Today"

Sabbath Eve . . . . . Friday, March 19th, 8:30 p.m.
Rabbi Milton Steinberg will preach on
"The Issue of Dual Loyalties—
Has Jewish Palestine Created It For American Jews?"

PURIM . . . . . Wednesday, March 24th, 7:30 p.m.

Sabbath Morning . . . . . Saturday Mornings, 10:00 a.m.
Bachurim Group at 10:00 a.m.; Junior Congregation Service at 10:00 a.m.

Non-Contraband Material Sought For Palestine

Material for Palestine, Inc., shipped its first cargo of non-contraband material to the Jews of Palestine on February 25th.

This newly formed organization was designed to perform a unique function. It is not engaged in fund raising but is seeking donations of specific goods from the general public. Material such as medical supplies, tents, blankets, sand bags, water distillation units, clothing, camping equipment and many other arti-

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Mazel Tov !

The Synagogue wishes to congratulate and extend its best wishes to Rabbi and Mrs. Morris N. Kertzer on the birth of Ruth's brother, David Israel.

Will You Attend ?

Junior League
Old Fashioned Movie Night, Vestry, Sunday, March 14th, 8:30 p.m.

Young Marrieds "B"
Meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Oppenheimer, 210 West 78th St.

Sisterhood Meeting
Dr. David Tannenbaum speaking on "*Eretz Israel*—Today & Tomorrow"—Vestry, Tuesday, March 23rd, 1:30 p.m.

Purim Party
Services in Synagogue, Wednesday, March 24th, 7:30 p.m. Entertainment.

THE PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE BULLETIN
is published bi-weekly from September to June by
THE PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE
50 East 87th Street, New York 28, N. Y.
Tel. SAcramento 2-8765

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Vol. 2 No. 11

From the Desk of Rabbi Steinberg

This is a plea for the revival of the custom of *davening*, that usage of all our fathers, of most of us in our youth, and of some of us to the present, whereby a stated period each day is set apart for religious exercises. I enter this plea not necessarily on behalf of the traditional shape and content of the practice which would involve the use of the *talith* and *tefilin* and the recitation of the fixed worship text of the *Siddur*, though, I believe, the tradition, where it is meaningfully maintained or retrievable, is preferable to most alternatives. My concern however is less with the details of the institution than its essence. I am eager that Jews should recover regular habits and skills in spiritual reflection.

Meditation is a lost art among us. We have either never practiced it at all or, if we once did, have long since put it aside to make time for more pressing, supposedly more practical activities. In the former case we have never discovered it, in the latter we have forgotten the very possibility of it, let alone its utility, indeed its sheer necessity.

For he who does not meditate is, first of all, less than a man, since through what, if not through reflective thought, is the human being rendered truly human? He is more harried and driven than he need be, lacking the refreshing, tranquillizing influence of "quiet times of the soul". And for want of consideration he knows less than he should of what life is about and what he is living for. Wherefore he is the more likely to be such an unfortunate as Walter Lippmann described in his *Preface to Morals* when he referred to those people who increase their efforts the less clear they become as to aims.

No, there is no alternative. Man, especially the man of religious interests, must ever wax in reflectiveness if he is not to wane in spirituality.

But how does one go about this enterprise—so unfamiliar to so many of us—of meditation? What does one think about? What does one do in the process with one's self, one's hands and feet, not to mention one's random thoughts and impulses?

Let me say here and now that I have no desire to set myself up as an expert at this delicate art. Yet I am not altogether a novice either. No one who has lived a Jewish religious life can be without first-hand experience of devotional expression. And I have made my own experiments also both with traditional procedures and with others of my own originating. From both sources I have evolved the following rules which I set forth as a kind of "Guide to Beginners in Spiritual Exercises".

1. A time must be set aside for the purpose. It need not be long; but neither may it be too brief. In any case, it must not be rushed. And it must be kept sacred to its dedication. The ancient rabbis knew what they were about when they prescribed fixed schedules for worship and study.

2. A text is necessary. He who sets out to think without knowing what about is in danger of ending up nowhere. A book provides a point of departure.

3. The right text is necessary. Right in content it must be concerned with God, the Good and Man. Right in format: it must be divided into short passages. Right in spirit; it must be poetic, ardent, suggestive.

The Bible, especially Psalms, is perfect for the purpose. (I recommend particularly the Soncino edition of Psalms, edited by A. Cohen, with Hebrew and English texts and commentary.) Among other books which will serve are Buber's *Ten Runs*, the wonderfully rich supplement to the *Reconstructionist Sabbath Prayer Book*, or, outside the specifically Jewish field, such anthologies of great utterances as *The Perennial Philosophy*, or *The Practical Cogitator*, or the newly published *Words To Live By*.

4. From reading one moves on to reflection. One proceeds to think of what has been read, to ask what truth has been disclosed, what beauty revealed, what goodness suggested.

5. Thought becomes worship. Whatever the truth, beauty or goodness, it must be referred back to God and forward to action. This twofold reference is the substance of worship. As to form, worship may use the language of prayer or of reflection, as one prefers. It can be as formal or informal as the spirit requires. (This is the point at which, being a traditionally reared Jew, I recite my *Shaharith*.)

6. Setting and appurtenances.
   a. One needs to be alone and uninterrupted.
   b. The cooperation of the other members of one's family must be enlisted to ensure privacy and freedom from interruptions.
   c. *Talith* and *tefilin*, in the case of morning devotion, are immensely helpful. Garbed in them, one feels, I have found in my own experience, isolated from ordinary and humdrum concerns, especially close to Jewish aspiration, indeed to all things spiritual.

* * *

It may seem a far cry from the terrible and practical urgencies, Jewish and human, of the hour to the theme of this column.

Yet, this word is not "far from you", not when one considers that it is by virtue of activities of this order that Israel survived in the past; that it is in purposes such as this that Judaism finds its point in the present; that it is out of such pursuits that men may justifiably cherish hopes for their self-regeneration in the future.

—MILTON STEINBERG

Men's Club Plans

The Interim Committee of the newly reorganized Men's Club is busy making plans for the first open meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 6th. Male congregants should make note of this date and attend the meeting.

The next BULLETIN will give further details. Members are urged to send in the application card recently mailed to them signifying their intention of joining.

This Is Your Synagogue

by Susan P. Ochs

Each Synagogue Member (Female)) Should Run To Sisterhood's Musicale Luncheon; It's Fun.

If Sisterhood's luncheon isn't on the tip of your tongue now, it had better be by Thursday, March 31st. If you are not aware of it, that is the day that the Sisterhood of the Park Avenue Synagogue will present its eleventh annual Musicale and Luncheon, directed this year by Mrs. Letty Osserman and Mrs. Vicki Wimpfheimer, and to be held on the festive roof of the Hotel Astor.

If you promise not to boast about it too much, we'll tell you that the unique idea for a pre-lunch musicale for this type of function originated with our Synagogue's own women. If you've ever heard a well-satiated artist sing, or felt restlessly sleepy yourself after eating too much for too long, you'll know the practical reasons behind this suggestion. The result has been ten wonderful years of listening to Jan Peerce, Helen Jepson and other artists of similar renown. Anyone who comes to luncheon hears these musical programs, but the aim of its organizers each year has been to get the women of the Synagogue in particular behind this affair. Because Sisterhood is expected to give a sizable sum each year to the Synagogue, and has always been a liberal donor to large Jewish charities, and is especially interested in the Home for the Aged Blind in Yonkers, and runs all sorts of gay parties for the Synagogue during the year (aside from its own very worthwhile educational lecture series), Sisterhood rightly presumes that every woman member of the Synagogue should support this one fund-raising effort.

If each woman in Synagogue purchased one donor ticket (fifteen dollars) or sold the equivalent in gift certificates (Mrs. Dorothy Gellert has some beautiful gifts up her sleeve), all the obligations Sisterhood has so willingly assumed would be met without difficulty.

In addition to the chairmen Mrs. Osserman and Mrs. Wimpfheimer who are working so hard to make the Luncheon "go over big", there are the many devoted Sisterhood members who put every effort they can into the selling of tickets.

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Plans Announced For Daily Evening Worship

The daily evening Worship, which the Ritual Committee has been planning, will be inaugurated on the second afternoon of Passover, Sunday, April 25th. From that date on, worship will be held daily except Friday, at 5:45 p.m. and will last from fifteen to twenty minutes. It will be a combination of the afternoon and evening services (*Minchah* and *Maariv*) so arranged as to prove meaningful and aesthetically attractive.

The Ritual Committee discussed the feasibility of having a community Seder at the Synagogue, but felt that it would not be practical this year in view of our limited facilities. Instead, Chairman I. B. Oseas indicated that the committee is sponsoring a Passover *Seder* Training Session which will be held a week before the Festival to acquaint members with what to do, how, and why in conducting a successful *Seder* service. The Rabbis will go through the whole proceedings with all congregants who are eager to refresh their Passover *Seder* performance. Louis I. Heller has been designated secretary of the Ritual Committee.

Movies of Yesteryear Shown By Junior League

On Sunday evening, March 14th, the Junior League will present an evening of old fashioned movies. All the young people of the Congregation are invited to take part in this type of program which is being repeated because of its past success. The fee of $1.00 will admit one to a showing of motion pictures of yesteryear with Charlie Chaplin, Harold Lloyd, Mack Sennett and many others. A social period will conclude the evening.

Mr. Lionel Gelber, a political advisor of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, was the guest of the Junior League at its open meeting on February 29th, when he discussed "Palestine at the United Nations". He pointed out to the 250 young people present the need for strict adherence to the timetable which was established as part of the partition plan by the UN Assembly. So far, the first date, February 1st, when a seaport was to be made available to facilitate immigration, has been passed over by the mandatory power. April 1st is the next crucial date.

School Highlights

At a past meeting of the Junior Congregation, Kenneth Geist was awarded the distinction of becoming the "Member of the Month." The "Member of the Month" is the one member of the Junior Congregation who is considered to have contributed exceptional service to the Junior Congregation. The choice was made by Ruth Kertzer and Robert Rifkind as officers of the group. Kenneth has officiated at the services in various capacities. He received a *Mogen David* pin.

Eight were inducted as members of the Junior Congregation. Those receiving an inscribed prayer book and membership cards were: Marilyn Schneider, Sylvia Schneider, Robert Rifkind, Ruth Kertzer, Kenneth Geist, Donald Keith Holzman, Menorah Liebowitz, Paul Bienstock.

On Saturday morning, March 6th, Mrs. Shulweis and her group, 4Y, were the guests of the Junior Congregation and participated in the service.

A visit to the S.A.J. on March 13 will return the visit their Junior Congregation paid our group.

The children of the school contributed enough food, clothes, medicine, and cash to enable Mrs. Bruno Foa, in charge of the Parents' Association's Overseas Aid program, to get together 12 large bundles for a school in Rome. It is hoped that further donations will be garnered in behalf of two other Italian schools, one in Trieste and one in Turin; since these, like the Rome school, are not included in J.D.C. benefits.

During Spring housecleaning, remember that books may turn up which are suitable for our school library; clothes may be disposed of by contributing them to the Overseas School Aid project of our School. In the event that your excess goods are too far gone to be suitable for overseas relief, call Goodwill Industries, 123 E. 124 St. They call for anything and find some miraculous use for it all, too.

Bar Mitzvah

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Seligson on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Carl, on Saturday, February 28th.

Parents' Association

(*Continued from Page* 1)

"Our program for this meeting is to be an intimate and personal one that will appeal to all of us. We are devoting the evening to a Panel Discussion between Parents, Teachers and Religious School Students. Mr. Edwin Schoffman of the Faculty will serve as Moderator. The parents participating will be Mrs. Anna Blau and Mr. Victor Herwitz, whose children represent the older and younger groups in the Religious School. The students taking part will be Francine Kornzweig, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Abraham L. Kornzweig, and Paul Seligson, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Seligson.

"The provocative theme for this discussion will be: "WHO MISSED THE BUS IN JEWISH EDUCATION?" Is there delinquency in the Jewish home or in the Religious School and how can we help each other?

"Please plan to attend and bring those children who would like to listen and join in with pertinent questions. Our usual pleasant Coffee and Cake Hour will follow the meeting. In addition the Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers and U.P.T.A. delegates for 1948-49. Nominations may also be made from the floor.

"We are looking forward to seeing all of you on March 17th. . . Sincerely yours,

Harriet Howe, *President*"

Materials for Palestine

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cles which are scarce or unobtainable in Palestine are urgently needed. These items which are relatively plentiful in this country and easily obtainable do not fall under any existing embargo.

Inasmuch as the collection and shipment of individual items would not be practical, donations of materials in quantity from manufacturers, distributors and retailers are desired. However, small groups of individuals acting in concert can amass a suitable quantity of any one item which would be practical to handle and ship.

Offices of Material for Palestine, Inc. are at 250 West 57th Street, New York City and any additional information desired in connection with its activities can be obtained from its Executive Director, Mr. Harold G. Jaffer.

Sisterhood Luncheon

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There are other jobs too—such as Mrs. Gertrude Karmiol's. She has been treasurer and financial organizer of luncheon for years and her greatest joy is arranging to seat people at luncheon. Even if they all want to sit in the center of the room.

Mrs. Frances Peiper has been obtaining talent for these musicales for so long that nobody can remember when she didn't. Since artists do not get paid for their services, there are nightly prayers around the month of March that some prominent prospect will not get a paying job for the day of luncheon.

Mrs. Juliet Levin who, as Sisterhood President, may be found buzzing about behind luncheon scenes, well remembers the year that a certain hotel waiter refused to help move a piano because he was not in the mover's union. So, a few members of Sisterhood promptly formed their own union, and the piano was properly placed.

Which proves that there are plenty of women who realize that for Sisterhood to continue as a thriving praisworthy communal group, all the women of Synagogue must work to make it so. Are you coming?

For Your Information

Rabbi and Mrs. Kertzer wish to thank their many friends for their good wishes on the occasion of the birth of their son David Israel.

Susan Geller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Geller, and Hannah Salomon, daughter of Professor and Mrs. Albert Salomon were the representatives of the Park Avenue Synagogue Religious School at a city-wide symposium. This event was sponsored by the Jewish Education Committee and held at the Spanish-Portugese Synagogue on February 23rd.

The newly established I. W. Held Lectureship at Beth Israel Hospital, named in memory of Mr. I. W. Held, a former member of the congregation, was formally started on Wednesday, February 25th, 1948.

Sisterhood Speaks

On Tuesday, March 23rd, at 1:30 p.m., the Sisterhood of The Park Avenue Synagogue will have the pleasure of listening to Dr. David Tannenbaum whose subject will be "*Eretz Yisroel*—Today and Tomorrow". Dr. Tannenbaum is consultant for the International Division of the New York Museum of Science and Industry at Rockefeller Center. He also was former director of the Palestine Economic Bureau. All ladies of the Synagogue are cordially invited to attend. Tea will be served after the lecture.

On February 17th, the Sisterhood had its Annual Birthday Party. Striking decorations arranged according to the signs of the Zodiac, by Mrs. Grace Gilbert, Party Chairman, provided the motif. The feature of the party, besides the excellent entertainment of Mrs. Vicki Galpeer, were the awards by Mrs. Irma Heller, Co-Chairman, of corsages to the "Stars" of the Sisterhood.

Young Marrieds B discussed the provocative novel "EAGLE AT MY EYES" at their last meeting. At the next meeting, to be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Oppenheimer, 210 West 78th Street, N. Y. C., on Thursday evening, March 18th, the Young Marrieds will discuss John Garfield's new play "SKIPPER NEXT TO GOD." The group is holding a theater party so that all members may see the play together.

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